New complaint forms

†*360. SHRI DATTA MEGHE:
SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation has introduced new complaint forms in order to receive complaints regarding catering services in trains;

(b) if so, the number of complaints received with regard to the catering services so far, after introduction of new complaint form;

(c) the improvements made in the catering services in view of these complaints; and

(d) the action taken by the Railways to ensure high standards of catering in future?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

(c) and (d) As an ongoing process, catering services of Indian Railways receive constant attention of the Zonal Railways and Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC), a wholly owned company of Indian Railways formed to upgrade and professionalize the catering and hospitality services of Indian Railways. IRCTC is setting up multi-cuisine state-of-the-art Food Plazas, Automatic Vending Machines to dispense hot and cold beverages, and modernizing railways existing base kitchens. Regular monitoring of catering services is done by Railways and IRCTC officials. IRCTC has engaged independent food audit agencies to ensure quality of food being supplied to the passengers of Indian Railways. All good practices like, progressive ISO (International Organization for Standardization) and HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points) certification of catering units are being followed. Complaints received from passengers are monitored by IRCTC and actions like, termination of contract, imposition of fine, warning etc. are taken on cases found substantiated. IRCTC has set up 24 hours control rooms at New Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and Secunderabad for receipt and redressal of complaints. Each of these control rooms has Personal Computers with broadband connectivity and dedicated telephone lines. Any passenger can make a telephone call to any of these control rooms and immediate action is taken on these complaints/suggestions.

In addition to above steps like, Customer Satisfaction Survey conducted through M/s IMRB International, Food Audit done by M/s TUV Sud South Asia on 112 units including Trains, Base Kitchens and Food Plazas, engagement of M/s RITES for ISO 22000:2005 certification of mobile as well as static units, conducting special drives on premium trains including Rajdhani, Shatabdis, East Bound trains and other Mail/Express trains through Quality Control Professionals (QCPs) so as to improve quality of catering services, introduction of Colored Menu Cards depicting *A-la-Carte* items along with their rates etc. have been taken to effect improvement in catering services.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.